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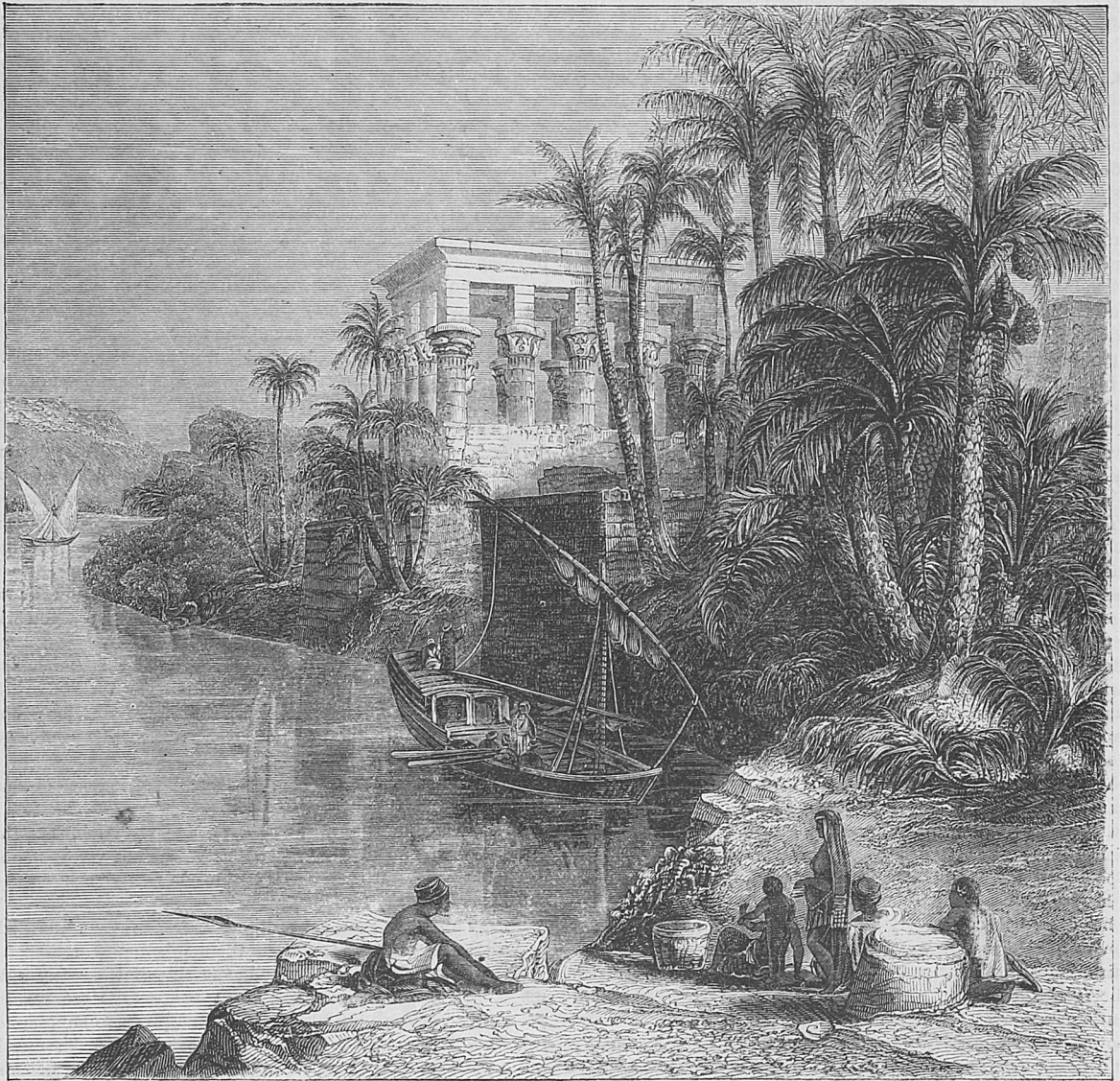
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SCENERY ON THE NILE.

THERE are several circumstances connected with the river Nile, which render it one of the most remarkable rivers in the world. Its magnitude and unknown extent; the mystery which, in spite of all the guesses of ancient writers and all the explorations of modern travellers, still hangs over its origin; its periodical inundations, to which Egypt owes its fertility, and the inhabitants their very existence; the extraordinary changes that take place at these times, in its colour, taste, and effects upon the health of those who drink it; the singular animals that frequent its waters, such as the crocodile, hippopotamus, etc; the great cities which in olden time lined its banks; and the majestic remains of temples,

gators. This branch of the Nile rises from two fountains in Abyssinia, whence it flows on with many changes of direction, and many interruptions and cataracts. The White River, so called from the quantity of fine white clay usually colouring its waters, is deeper and broader than the other stream, and its sources have never yet been discovered, though they are with great probability supposed to be somewhere in the mountains of the Moon. After the union of these two branches, the river flows northward with many windings, until at last it enters the boundaries of Egypt at Philæ, six miles from what was formerly called Syene, but now bears the name of Assouan.



SCENE ON THE NILE NEAR PHILÆ.

tombs, pyramids, and other monuments, which are still to be seen there—all these things give a degree of interest to the river, far exceeding that which attaches to any other. It is formed by the union of two long arms, which come from the south-east and south-west, the former called the Blue and the latter the White River. The Blue River, which derives its name from its dark colour, was traced to its origin and described by Paez in 1618, and was afterwards explored by Bruce, who had the foolish presumption to pretend that he had by so doing solved the problem which had for ages baffled the skill of all investi-

It is at this point that the beautiful sketch, of which we here give an engraving, was made by a distinguished traveller. The island of Philæ is one of the smallest of those which are interspersed along the course of the Nile, but it is very remarkable for beauty of aspect. It also possesses some interest, as having been the spot where the French army desisted from their pursuit of the Mamelukes during Bonaparte's expedition to Egypt. The soldiers engraved upon one of those massive square stones found at the entrance to Egyptian edifices and called *pylones*, the dates of the landing of the army and the names of the generals and *sarants* with them.